

Army & Navy Co-operative Society Ltd - Part 2

Rosemary Smith

In Bulletin 302 I gave a broad history of the Army & Navy Stores. One of the "auxiliary" supply companies which the parent body set up was *"The Army & Navy Auxiliary Co-operative Supply Ltd"*. The 'Auxiliary Supply' was located at 1 Francis Street, adjoining the main premises in Victoria Street, Westminster. In Part 1 I wrote that the Auxiliary Supply was established to supply fresh provisions, boots, furniture and estate agency services.

However, the 'Supply' did use different perfin to those used by the 'Stores'. The perfin letters were AUX between parallel lines. There seems to have been 6 different variations of this format, 5 where the 'AUX' was the same but the number of holes in the lines were different. The sixth die has wider spaced letters and an odd hole behind the letter 'X' half way between the lines.

In the Sept/Oct Bulletin of 1981 Mary Thornton wrote an article about these dies. She wondered if the different dies were used at different addresses of the Auxiliary Supply. She had no covers to verify this. I do not think this is the answer. I have covers for 4 of the 6 dies and all originated at 1 Francis Street. My guess is that they were for the different departments.

I have 3 receipts with 3 different dies. There is no one named department on any receipt but the department names are down the side of each receipt.

The departments and services are as follows:-

Miscellaneous - Live Birds & Animals; Forage; Garden & Agricultural Implements; Manures etc; Coal; New Carriages; Sewing Machines; Photography:-Portraiture, Chemicals, Accessories and Appliances; Seeds; Bulbs; Bedding Plants.

Provisions - Meat; Fish; Ice; Poultry; Dairy Produce; Fruit; Flowers; Veg.
Furnishing, Etc. - Furniture; Bedsteads; Bedding etc; Removals; Warehousing; Safe Deposit; Carpets; Furnishing Drapery; Building Work, Materials etc; Surveys; Sanitary Works; Electrical Engineering; Blinds; Church Furniture; Funerals.

Agencies - Auctions; Estate; General; Scholastic; Governors; Tutorial; Servant's Registry; Fire & Life Insurance; Job Horses; Carriages; Live Stock.

Dress, Toilet etc - Boots & Shoes; Millinery etc; Costumes; Hairdressing; Toilet Requisites.

[Was there anything they did not provide?]

The 6 dies in the catalogue are not in the order of probable use.

A5585.01 c1880

A5580.02 1895-05

A5580.03 1905-25

A5580.04

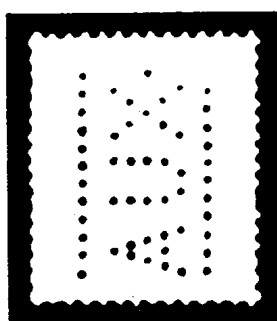
1890-1902

A5580.01

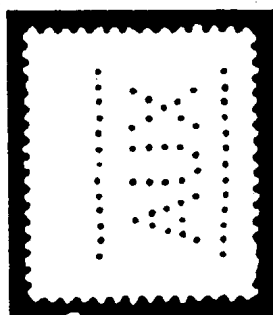
1905-1910

A5560.04a

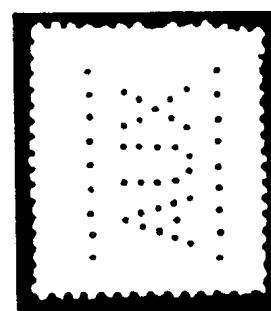
?



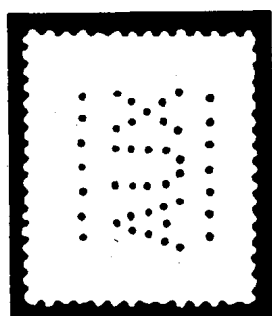
A5585.01



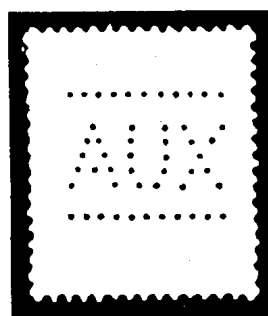
A5580.04



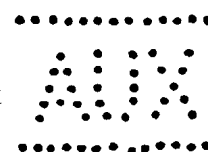
A5580.02



A5580.01



A5580.03



A5580.04a

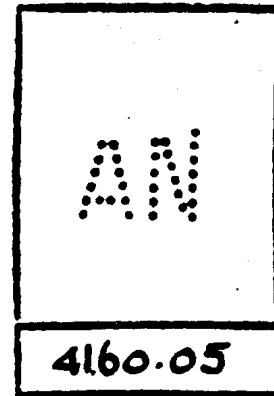
5580.01 = 7 hole line 5580.02 = 9 hole line 5580.03 = 11 hole line

5580.04 = 13 hole line 5580.04a = 13 hole line 5585.01 = 11

holes named in Tomkins and Tilles but in Gault and my example there are 11 holes in the bottom line and 12 in the top line in the illustration & die.

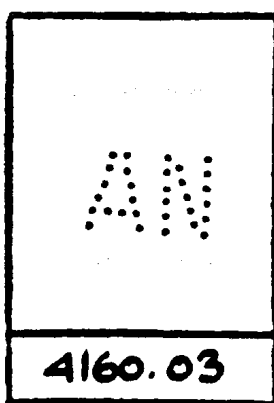
Although the name of the Army & Navy Co-operative Society Limited was changed to ***Army & Navy Stores Limited*** in 1934, the Society did begin using the perfin 'AN' c1915. Tomkins gives the dates for the first 'AN' die (A4160.05) as from 1915-20.

I have a letter and receipt from Army & Navy Co-operative Society, Limited dated 18th May 1917. The perfin is A4160.05. For historians the letter is quite enlightening. It begins:-



"I beg to state that owing to the Government having commandeered all stock of Enamelled Slop Pails the Society is temporarily unable to execute your order".

One would assume that many of these found their way into the trenches - if the Tommies were so lucky. (By coincidence, as I sit here at my computer it is Thursday November 11th



My second Card is dated 2nd Nov 1936, headed **Army & Navy Stores, Limited** but the same address, 105 Victoria Street. The perfin is A4160.03 on a KGV 1d Photogravure. Dates of use for this perfin are recorded as 1925-36

The card is to inform a Lt. Colonel that cleaning and restoring of an Oil Painting has now been completed. Was there nothing this Society did not tackle?